

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /036 W

----- 054055

R 250810Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5226

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6927

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, AF

SUBJECT: CALL ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE

1. I CALLED ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE ABDUL RAHIM NAVIM SEPTEMBER 24 AS ONE OF SERIES OF INTRODUCTORY CALLS ON VARIOUS MINISTERS. NAVIM WAS JOINTED BY ACTING DEPMIN SHAFIE RAHEL. (LATTER REMAINS EDITOR OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE KABUL TIMES AND IS CURRENTLY DE FACTO DEPMIN INFO. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF REPORTED RESISTANCE FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON BASIS THAT HE IS "TOO CLOSE TO AMERICANS," HIS APPOINTMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN FINALLY APPROVED OR ANNOUNCED, AND MAY NOT BE.)

2. MINISTER SEEMED RELAXED AND SOFT-SPOKEN, SPEAKING ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN PLATITUDES ABOUT DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH "ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES." SOME SIGNIFICANT POINTS, HOWEVER, EMERGED.

3. NAVIM SAID NOT ONLY THAT US SHOULD CONTINUE ITS CURRENT CULTURAL AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AS IT HAS IN THE PAST, BUT THAT GOA HOPED FOR INCREASED SUPPORT IN THESE FIELDS FROM US IN FUTURE. HE MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE EXAMPLES POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHAN FILMS AND FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED TV SYSTEM WHICH GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO IMPLANT. SOMEWHAT EVASIVELY, I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHAT OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES MIGHT PERMIT, BUT THAT WE WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS THAT THE GOA PUT FORWARD.

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4. MININFO CONFIRMED STORY WE HAD HEARD ELSEWHERE THAT AFGHAN "STRINGERS" FOR FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES ARE FOR TIME BEING SUSPENDED FROM PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES. (THIS INCLUDES STRINGERS FOR REUTERS, UPI, BBC AND AP, AND MEANS THAT AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING ONLY GOA NEWS AGENCY, RESIDENT TASS AND HSINHUA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO FILE STORIES FROM KABUL, SINCE THERE ARE NO RESIDENT WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS HERE.) MININFO SAID THAT SAME PERSONS WOULD EVENTUALLY AGAIN BE ABLE TO FUNCTION AS STRINGERS, BUT ONLY AFTER COMPLETE REVIEW AND REVISION OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THEIR ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN COMPLETED. HE ESTIMATED THIS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO ACHIEVE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE MADE POINT THAT THAT PORTION OF PRESS LAW DEALING WITH THE PRIVATE PRESS IS NOW SUSPENDED AND WILL BE REVISED, THOUGH OTHER PORTIONS OF THE PRESS LAW CONTINUE IN FORCE. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION HE SAID THAT THERE WERE NO NEW RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITY OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO MIGHT COME TO AFGHANISTAN. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT GOVERNMENT WISHED TO SEE THEM "REPORT OBJECTIVELY AND FACTUALLY, NOT IN A BIASED FASHION." HE CLARIFIED THIS TO MEAN THAT GOA COULD NOT PERMIT REPORTING BASED ON "INFORMATION GATHERED FROM A SMALL CIRCLE" WHICH MISREPRESENTED THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES (SIC).

5. AFTER MEETING RAHEL TOLD ME HE THOUGHT MEETING HAD BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL AND ENCOURAGED ME TO ASK OUR PAO CALL ON MINISTER AND HIM TO FOLLOW UP WITH DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE US ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE USEFUL. (AS SIGN OF TIMES, HOWEVER, RAHEL, WHO IS OLD FRIEND, SAID WITH SOME OBVIOUS EMBARRASSMENT THAT HE WAS "TOO BUSY" TO ACCEPT ANY SOCIAL INVITATIONS FOR TIME BEING AND IT MIGHT BE SOME WHILE BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO DO SO.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** CALL ON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SCUL, AF, US, (NAVIM, ABDUL RAHIM), (RAHEL, SHAFIE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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